

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
PIGEON RIVER COUNTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
October 19, 2007**

A meeting of the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council was held on Friday, October 19, 2007 at the Pigeon River Country Management Unit Headquarters. Chairman Gustafson called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Bolinger, Mike Castle, Pete Gustafson, Eugene Horan, John Walters, Richard Myers, Arch Reeves, Dave Smethurst, Bud Slingerland, Randy Sanders, Rique Campa, Bob Hess, & Carol Clute

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ben Bartlett (resigned), Ken Glasser, Mark Ennes, Jim Supina and Don Huff

**EX-OFFICIO PRESENT** Brian Mastenbrook for Glen Matthews and Laurie Marzolo

**EX-OFFICIO ABSENT:** Rick Henderson and Dave Borgeson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mike Brown, Dayle Garlock, Joe Jarecki and Jude Jarecki

**CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS:**

Chairman Gustafson said that he had no opening remarks.

**AGENDA**

No changes to the published agenda were requested.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 2007 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion** by Walters, support by Bolinger to approve the July 20, 2007 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

(The page four amendment was that the elk were being tranquilized to remove their collars.)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**CONCEPT OF MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Chairman Gustafson said the Steering Committee met, discussed the public input that was received during the public input period that ended on September 15, 2007, and developed a revised draft that will be presented to the Natural Resources Commission at its November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. He described changes that were made or not made regarding the Advisory Council recommendations in his 9/10/07 letter. (Copy attached.) He said the horseback use section was modified significantly to restrict where horses can be ridden and possibly adding more camping restrictions.

Gustafson said there will be two opportunities for comment at the November 8<sup>th</sup> NRC meeting, during the Land Use Committee meeting and at the formal NRC meeting later in the day. He said the early meeting is the most important. He said he is unable to attend on the 8<sup>th</sup> and thinks it is important that there be Advisory Council representation to show support for the process and the diligence of the Department and to encourage adoption of the update. He said he will submit

written comments and asked if any Council members would be willing to attend as Council representatives. Arch Reeves, Bud Slingerland and Bob Hess said they would attend. Dave Smethurst said he would attend if his meeting conflict can be rescheduled. Mike Brown said he thought Ken Glasser plans to attend.

Laurie Marzolo said that during the public input period, there were 80 electronic respondents and 17 mail respondents. Most comments involved cover and wildlife management (75) or recreation and law enforcement (72). All comments were read, reviewed and considered. The Department is responding to all who submitted comments. She thanked the Advisory Council for its support and input during the process.

### **OIL AND GAS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mike Brown reported for Committee Chair Ken Glasser who was unable to attend. Brown said Merit Energy believes the leading edge of the contamination plume at the Charlton 4 CPF has been found and that good progress has been made cleaning up the contamination.

Regarding the proposed Antrim wells in Blue Lakes, Brown said the new Landman for Aurora told him that they feel it is up to Aurora to make the next step and the Department is not holding anything up. Aurora is not pushing forward at this time.

Brown discussed a Dow Corning proposed electric generation plant that would eventually use technology to gasify coal but until the technology is perfected would burn natural gas. This was discussed by the Oil and Gas Committee because there are rumors of a proposal to supply the gas for the plant by tapping the Antrim gas in the Consent Order area of the PRC.

Smethurst said another rumor that is a concern is the one that carbon dioxide will be used for secondary recovery on PRC Niagaran wells. He urged the Committee to keep on top of both rumors.

Brown said the Committee would like to see the onsite Enforcement Officer for the PRC appointed. Marzolo and Garlock said they would look into the issue.

The Committee's next meeting will be next Wednesday (24<sup>th</sup>) at the Otsego County Court House in Gaylord at 6:30 pm.

There was a request for the Oil and Gas Committee to look at enhanced recovery with carbon dioxide. Since there may be an opportunity to get more total oil out and at the same time to get it out quicker so it would be a win win. Randy Sanders was asked to discuss this topic at a future Oil and Gas Committee meeting. He said he would be willing to do so.

### **DNR FOREST, MINERAL & FIRE MANAGEMENT DIVISION REPORT**

Dayle Garlock said a nomination for the vacant Advisory Council position has been submitted. He said the Department is on a continuing budget. Among other things, that means there are no plans to open the campgrounds that were recently closed.

### **EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

#### **Wildlife Division**

Brian Mastenbrook passed out maps showing the fall hunt elk kill locations and discussed the fall hunt. 55 permits were issued, 54 hunters showed up and they killed 47 animals. There were 133 permits issued for the December hunt and 120 animals are expected to be taken.

Mastenbrook pointed out the large map on the wall that shows the areas of activity since the Pigeon River Habitat Initiative employee was hired. He said the PRHI is having an effect and will continue to do so. He said the PRHI will be shifting to a broader focus to encourage local units of government to make decisions that will encourage landowners to retain their land in an undeveloped condition.

At the request of Laurie Marzolo, he will be coming to the Council to characterize what implementing the changes in the Cover and Wildlife Management section of the updated Concept will mean. For example, where will the new acres of opening and upland brush come from and how will swamp conifers be managed?

Smethurst said that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation people who did land protection were laid off. Also, the RMEF will not be providing money for purchasing development rights in the future.

### **FMFM Division**

Laurie Marzolo went over her written report (copy attached), including inviting Council comment about the complex of stands that are scheduled for harvest along the Pickerel Lake Road in Compartment 30. A request was made that cover type maps showing the proposed harvest areas on 11" x 15" paper be sent to Council members each year prior to the Open House since the maps on the internet print out on 8 ½" x 11" paper and are harder to read.

Marzolo said that in the future, the plan is to consult with the Council about 40 acre or larger clearcuts prior to the Compartment Review, ideally at the July Council meeting.

Marzolo said there is a statewide initiative to increase red pine harvest above what is already prescribed. She said this will result in an additional 100 acres of red pine being offered for sale in the PRC in FY 2008 and about 300 additional acres in FY 2009.

**BREAK** 8:25 to 8:37 p.m.

### **EX-OFFICIO REPORTS continued**

#### **Fisheries Division**

John Walters reported for Fisheries Biologist Tim Cwalinski that the 10 temperature loggers that were placed in the Black River and the 10 in the Pigeon River were recently pulled for the winter. The preliminary data shows water temperatures were lower this summer at almost all sites than has been the case in recent years.

The Sinkhole Lakes Plan that was discussed with the Council previously is being implemented. The lakes will be open to fishing in spring 2008. The Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited has been charged with stewardship of the sites including cleanup of litter at problem areas like Section 4 Lake.

The Black River from Tin Shanty Bridge Road to the Town Corner stairs will have special experimental regulations (gear regulation #6 in the Fishing Guide) for the purpose of seeing if angling pressure and/or harvest has an impact in that reach of the river.

**Motion** by Smethurst, support by Slingerland that the Advisory Council renews its recommendation to remove the Chandler Dam on the former Kronlund property.  
Motion Carried.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Chairman Gustafson said that Eugene Horan and Dick Myers have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. He asked for a third volunteer and Dave Smethurst volunteered. Gustafson asked the Committee to report at the next meeting and to submit a written report that will be included in the information package for the meeting. He encouraged all Council members to give the Committee input.

### **2008 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

Gustafson said this past year the Council meeting cycle was January, April, July and October while previously it was March, June, September and December. He asked if Council members prefer to keep the new cycle and the consensus was to continue the new cycle. The Advisory Council meeting schedule for 2008 was set as: January 18, April 11, July 25 and October 17.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

A report about the Pigeon River Habitat Initiative should be on the agenda for January or April.

Brian Mastenbrook was asked, and agreed to report sometime in the next several meetings about the state of the PRC's wildlife. He was asked to discuss game and non game species and issues of significance with respect to wildlife. How are deer, bear, bobcat, pine marten, etc doing? What problems are on the horizon?

A similar report from Fisheries to include both streams and lakes was also requested.

A report about the implications of the updated Concept of Management was requested.

The question was asked if Council members think baiting should be discussed again.

### **ADJOURN**

**Motion** by Hess, support by Campa to adjourn at 9:20 p. m. Motion carried.

Minutes were taken and summarized by Joe Jarecki.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Marzolo, Secretary